

**Testimony of Mr. James Brown before the Housing Committee in
support of**

House Bill No. 6461

An Act Concerning the Selection of Tenant Commissioners

March 1, 2011

Hello. My name is James Brown and I live in the Franklin Apts at 12 Garden Street in Bridgeport, CT. I am a PHRN member and a former Tenant Council President, as well as a current Resident Commissioner for the Bridgeport Housing Authority. I am here to speak in support of House Bill #6461.

As a Resident Commissioner, it is very important to me to communicate with all residents and attend all resident meetings in order to hear resident concerns and to better represent residents. It is also important for me to develop strong relationships with the other commissioners as well as other community leaders and organizations. In other words, it is important for me to be the voice of the residents regarding all Bridgeport Housing Authority matters and to insure that resident concerns are addressed.

So if the Resident Commissioner is to be the voice of public housing residents, should not residents be the ones who determine who their commissioner should be? Residents should be able to elect a Resident Commissioner who they trust. They then would be an active part of the process. Is that not what the democratic process in this country was built on – 1 Voice, 1 VOTE!

Thank you